



MAR.
NO. 24

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

12¢

In this issue: TWO BIG ACTION-PACKED STORIES...
"MULTI-MAN, MASTER OF EARTH!"
and **"The CHALLENGERS
DIE at DAWN!"**

WE'RE TOO LATE!
MULTI-MAN HAS
COMBINED HIS THREE
STRANGE FORMS--
AND NOW THREATENS
TO DOOM THE WORLD!



National Periodical
PUBLICATIONS, INC.

575 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

Dear Boys and Girls:

First, we would like to thank you for having bought this DC magazine, even though it cost you two cents more than usual. Obviously, you like our magazine and consider our stories worth the extra two pennies. That makes us feel mighty proud!

However, we think we owe you an explanation as to why it was necessary to raise our price, after successfully publishing comics for over 25 years at 10¢. Over these past years the cost of producing our magazines has steadily risen. We have to pay more for art, engraving, paper and printing. You, too, have to pay more for most of the things you buy. U.S. Post Cards, which used to cost only 1¢, are now 3¢. Sodas and telephone calls were a nickel, now they are double that, ten cents. Hot dogs also were a nickel, now they are at least a dime, 15¢ in most places. Everything costs more today than just a few years ago. Your parents have to pay more for food, clothing and rent.

The retailer who sold you this magazine has also been affected by rising costs, and so has the company that delivered the magazine to him. All of us will share the additional two cents. Although some of our competitors are now charging 15¢ for the same size comic magazine that we produce, we feel that 12¢ adequately covers our rising production costs, and is therefore a much better value for you.

We feel confident that you understand the necessity for this slight adjustment, and will remain loyal fans. For our part, we promise to redouble our efforts to maintain the same high standards of publishing that have produced the world-famous line of SUPERMAN-DC Comics.

Sincerely yours,

The Editors

P.S.: Our GIANT ANNUALS will still cost only 25¢!

INTO THE MYSTERIOUS ORIENTAL JUNGLE THE CHALLENGERS GO IN PURSUIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL! BUT THE TABOOS OF A NATIVE TRIBE LEAD TO THEIR CAPTURE AND THE JUDGMENT OF A VENGEFUL TRIBAL CHIEF, WHOSE VERDICT IS...

the CHALLENGERS DIE at DAWN

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



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ABOVE THE EXOTIC COAST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE CHALLENGERS ONCE MORE ARE WINGING TOWARD HIGH ADVENTURE...

THERE IT IS! AND JUST BEYOND THE BEACH IS THE JUNGLE COUNTRY OF THE BANLUK TRIBE, WHERE MANFREDO WAS LAST REPORTED SEEN!

YEAH! AND WILL I BE GLAD WHEN WE GET OUR HANDS ON THAT CHARITY SWINDLER!



I'LL MAKE HIM SORRY HE EVER TURNED FROM SMALL-TIME CARNIVAL MAGICIAN TO INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE MAN!

OH-OH! THE MOTOR'S FLAMED OUT ON US! GOT TO TRY A DEAD STICK LANDING!



CAREFULLY TAKING THE PLANE THROUGH A TRICKY MANEUVER, ACE BRINGS THE WHEELS DOWN ON THE BEACH, AND...

NICE WORK, ACE! YOU MADE IT!

THANKS, RED! NOW, WHILE JUNE AND I WORK OVER THE ENGINE, YOU GUYS MOVE INTO THE JUNGLE AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET A LEAD ON MANFREDO FROM ONE OF THE NATIVES!



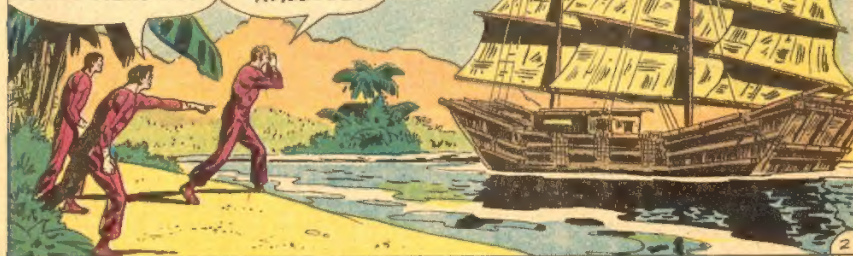
LATER AS PROF. RED, AND ROCKY INCH THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DENSE ORIENTAL JUNGLE...

NO SIGN OF BANLUK TRIBESMEN, SO FAR! WAIT! THERE'S A CLEARING AHEAD AND--LOOK!



GET A LOAD OF THAT, WILL YA? EVER SEE A CLASSIER JUNK IN ALL YOUR LIFE? MUST BE SOME LOCAL POTENTATE!

WELL, LET'S GIVE HIM A CALL! MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MANFREDO! HALLOO OUT THERE! HALLOO!





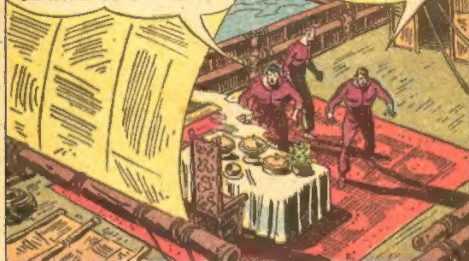
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



RECEIVING NO RESPONSE, THE TRIO SWIMS OUT TO INVESTIGATE...

WOWEE! WHAT A SET-UP! IT LOOKS LIKE THE **PURPLE PRINCE OF PANDOOKA** IS COMING TO DINNER!

WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND YOUR **PURPLE PRINCE, ROCKY!**



BUT SHORTLY AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE SHIP...

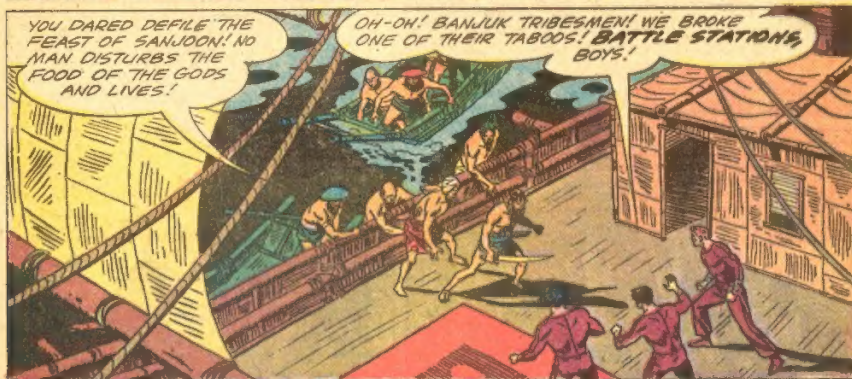
I DON'T GET IT! NOT A SOUL ON BOARD! THEN WHY DID THEY SET THIS FEAST?

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I THINK THE DINNER GUESTS ARE ARRIVING!



YOU DARED DEFILE THE FEAST OF SANJOON! NO MAN DISTURBS THE FOOD OF THE GODS AND LIVES!

OH-OH! BANJUK TRIBESMEN! WE BROKE ONE OF THEIR TABOOS! **BATTLE STATIONS, BOYS!**



SORRY, CHUM-- BUT THIS IS **GOOD NIGHT!**

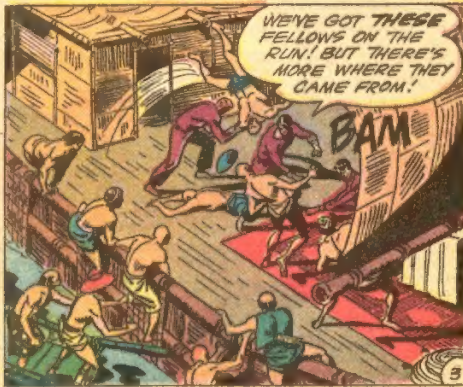
POW

OOOF!



WE'VE GOT THESE FELLOWS ON THE RUN! BUT THERE'S MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM!

BAM





OUTNUMBERED, THE TRIO IS FORCED TO SURRENDER, AND SHORTLY, IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE...

OUR TRIBAL CODE IS CLEAR! THERE IS BUT ONE PENALTY FOR DEFYING THE TABOO OF OUR GREAT SPIRIT! DEATH AT SUNRISE!

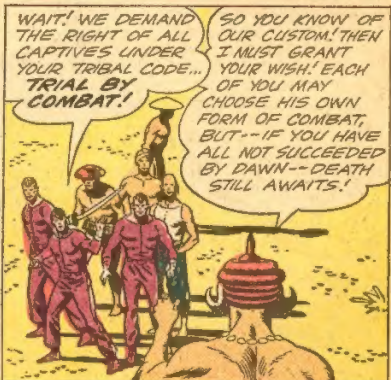
BOY, WE'VE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO A REAL POT OF STEW THIS TIME!



AND AS THE GUARDS START TO LEAD THEM AWAY...

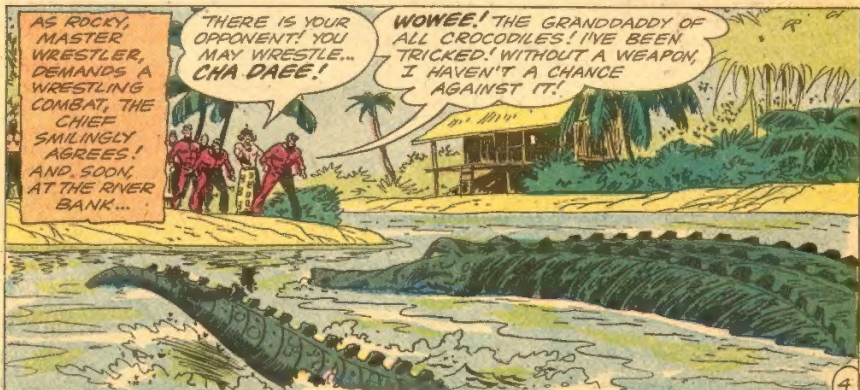
THERE'S SOMETHING GNAVING AT MY BRAIN, BOYS! SOMETHING ABOUT THE TRIBAL LAWS AND THE RIGHTS OF CAPTIVES! HMM! I'VE GOT IT!

WELL, IT BETTER BE GOOD, PROF! THESE GUYS MEAN BUSINESS!



WAIT! WE DEMAND THE RIGHT OF ALL CAPTIVES UNDER YOUR TRIBAL CODE... TRIAL BY COMBAT!

SO YOU KNOW OF OUR CUSTOM! THEN I MUST GRANT YOUR WISH! EACH OF YOU MAY CHOOSE HIS OWN FORM OF COMBAT, BUT--IF YOU HAVE ALL NOT SUCCEEDED BY DAWN--DEATH STILL AWAITS!



AS ROCKY, MASTER WRESTLER, DEMANDS A WRESTLING COMBAT, THE CHIEF SMILINGLY AGREES! AND, SOON, AT THE RIVER BANK...

THERE IS YOUR OPPONENT! YOU MAY WRESTLE... CHA DAE!

WOWEE! THE GRANDDADDY OF ALL CROCODILES! I'VE BEEN TRICKED! WITHOUT A WEAPON, I HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST IT!

THE MOMENT ROCKY ENTERS THE WATER, THE MAMMOTH REPTILE STARTS ITS SILENT ATTACK...



I CAN'T MEET THIS BABY HEAD ON-- THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

WAITING UNTIL THE GREAT JAWS ARE ALMOST ATOP HIM, ROCKY DIVES AND...



I'VE GOT TO GRAB HIS TAIL, AND IF HE REACTS THE WAY I THINK HE WILL, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF!

INSTANTLY, CHA DAE FLIPS ITS GREAT TAIL FROM THE WATER, TOSSING ROCKY INTO THE AIR...



SPLASH

BINGO! NOW FOR A HEAD LOCK!

ON SHORE, PROF AND RED ANXIOUSLY FOLLOW THE TITANIC STRUGGLE...



GOOD FOR ROCKY! NOW IF HE CAN JUST KEEP THOSE JAWS CLAMPED SHUT...

WOW! THIS THING IS THRASHING AROUND LIKE CRAZY! I CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!





SUDDENLY...

LOOK! CHA DAE SHOOK OFF ROCKY-- BUT IT'S SPEEDING OFF DOWNSTREAM LIKE A SCARED MOUSE!

YEAH! BUT WHY, PROF? WHAT FRIGHTENED IT?

AS ROCKY EMERGES TRIUMPHANT...

THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER, BOYS! THAT BRIGHT ORANGE STAIN! IT MUST BE SOMETHING THAT WORKS THE WAY SHARK REPELLENT DOES-- AND IT FRIGHTENED THE CROC AWAY!

HMM! IT MIGHT BE A NATURAL DYE FROM SOME PLANT OR MINERAL DEPOSIT UPSTREAM! HOW THAT FOR LUCK?

SWIFTLY, THE CHIEF SENDS WORD BACK TO HIS VILLAGE, AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE...

A BIRD! THE CHIEF'S PULLED ANOTHER FAST ONE ON US! THAT GUY IS GOING TO FLY TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!

PSST! TAKE IT EASY, RED! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS KIND OF BIRD BEFORE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A FIRST COUSIN OF THE OSTRICH! AND OSTRICHES CAN'T FLY!



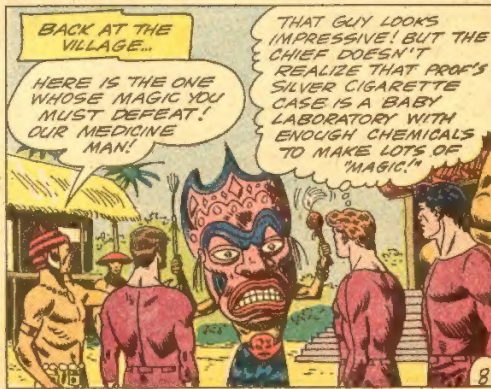
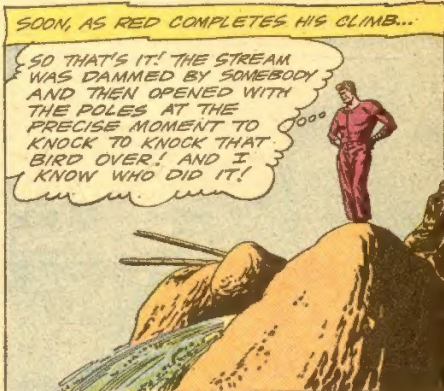
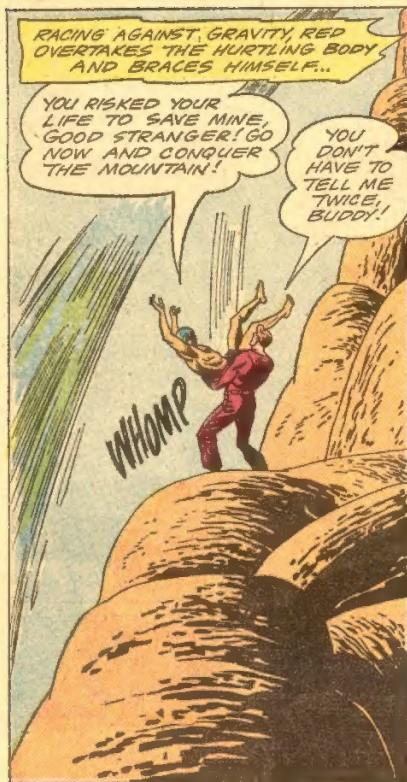
NOW, STILL RACING AGAINST THE DAWN DEADLINE, RED, EXPERT MOUNTAIN CLIMBER, THROWS DOWN THE SECOND CHALLENGE...

HEAR ME, CHIEF! I DARE ANY OF YOUR TRIBE TO RACE ME TO THE TOP OF THAT MOUNTAIN!

SO? THEN IT SHALL BE! YOUR OPPONENT WILL AWAIT YOU THERE!







SOON, THE MEDICINE MAN HAS A FIRE BUILT AND THEN BEGINS THE STRANGE COMBAT...

SEE? HE BRINGS FORTH FLAMES OF DIFFERENT COLORS FROM THE FIRE!

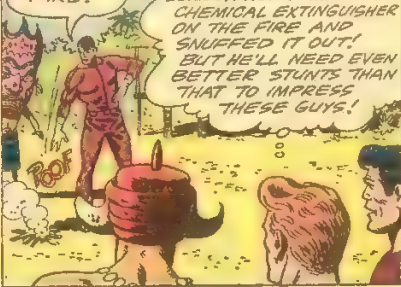
NOT BAD! HIS "MAGIC" IS A KIND OF PRIMITIVE CHEMISTRY! HE WON'T BE ANY PUSHOVER!



DEFTLY PROF WITHDRAWS A PELLET FROM HIS CIGARETTE CASE, AND...

ZOONGO! OUT, FIRE!

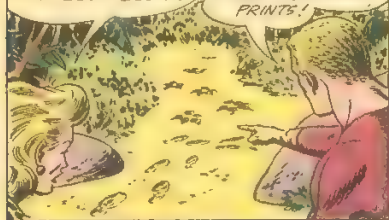
NICE WORK! UNDER COVER OF THAT MUMBO-JUMBO, PROF DUMPED A CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER ON THE FIRE AND SNIFFED IT OUT! BUT HE'LL NEED EVEN BETTER STUNTS THAN THAT TO IMPRESS THESE GUYS!



MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE NEARBY JUNGLE...

THESE MUST BE MANFREDO'S SHOE PRINTS! WE'D RECOGNIZE THEM IF THEY WERE OUR BOYS' BOOTS!

RIGHT! OH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THAT SWINDLER RAN INTO TROUBLE AHEAD! THOSE ARE TIGER PAW PRINTS!



ACCORDING TO THESE PRINTS, MANFREDO TANGLED WITH THE CAT RIGHT HERE!

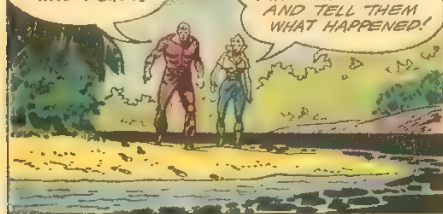
HE MUST HAVE BEEN BADLY HURT! HERE'S A PIECE OF HIS CLOTHING—AND HIS PRINTS CONTINUE DOWN TO THE RIVER!



QUICKLY, THEY FOLLOW THE PRINTS TO THE RIVER'S EDGE...

THEY END HERE, RIGHT AT THE WATER! THE WAY THOSE PRINTS ARE SPACED, MANFREDO WAS OBVIOUSLY STAGGERING AT THIS POINT!

THEN HE MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THE WATER AND BEEN SWIFT AWAY! WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL FIND THE BOYS AND TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED!



AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BACK IN THE VILLAGE...

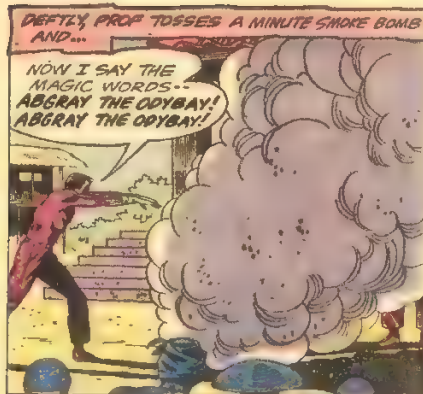
AND, FOR MY FINAL ACT OF MAGIC, I WILL MAKE YOUR MEDICINE MAN HIMSELF DISAPPEAR IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE!

WHAT? NOW'S HE GONNA DO THAT?



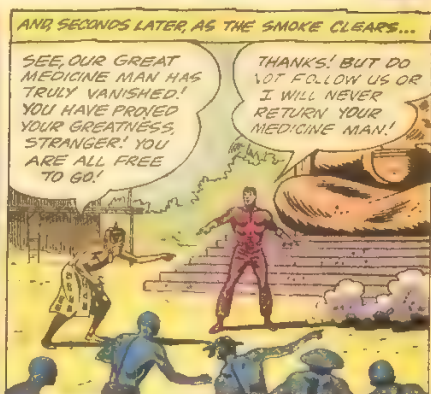


CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



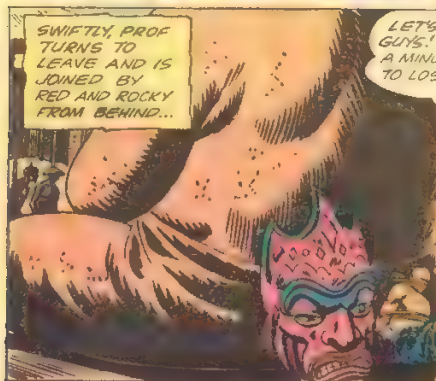
DEFTLY, PROF TOSSES A MINUTE SMOKE BOMB AND...

NOW I SAY THE MAGIC WORDS--
ABGRAY THE ODYBAY!
ABGRAY THE ODYBAY!



SEE, OUR GREAT MEDICINE MAN HAS TRULY VANISHED! YOU HAVE PROVED YOUR GREATNESS, STRANGER! YOU ARE ALL FREE TO GO!

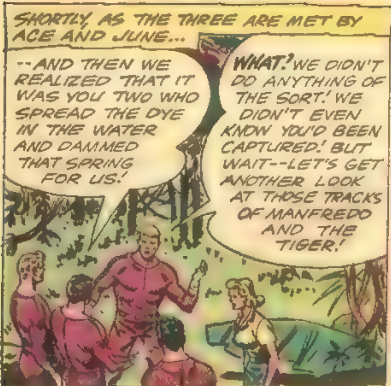
THANKS! BUT DO NOT FOLLOW US OR I WILL NEVER RETURN YOUR MEDICINE MAN!



SWIFTLY, PROF TURNS TO LEAVE AND IS JOINED BY RED AND ROCKY FROM BEHIND...

LET'S GO, GUYS! NOT A MINUTE TO LOSE!

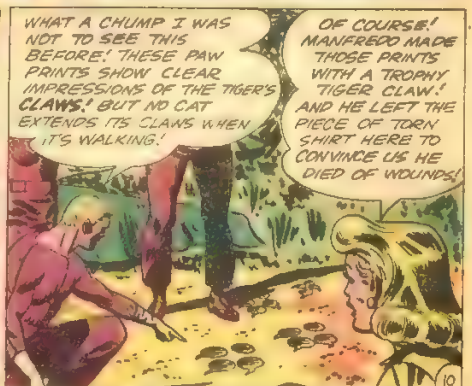
CHECK! GOOD THING THE CHIEF DOESN'T SPEAK PIG LATIN! OTHERWISE HE'D KNOW "ABGRAY THE ODYBAY" MEANS "GRAB THE BODY!" UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE, WE GRABBED THE MEDICINE MAN AND LEFT HIM TRUSSSED UP BEHIND THE IDOL!



SHORTLY AS THE THREE ARE MET BY ACE AND JUNE...

--AND THEN WE REALIZED THAT IT WAS YOU TWO WHO SPREAD THE DYE IN THE WATER AND DAMMED THAT SPRING FOR US!

WHAT? WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING OF THE SORT! WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU'D BEEN CAPTURED! BUT WAIT--LET'S GET ANOTHER LOOK AT THOSE TRACKS OF MANFREDO AND THE TIGER!



WHAT A CHUMP I WAS NOT TO SEE THIS BEFORE! THESE PAW PRINTS SHOW CLEAR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TIGER'S CLAWS! BUT NO CAT EXTENDS ITS CLAWS WHEN IT'S WALKING!

OF COURSE! MANFREDO MADE THOSE PRINTS WITH A TROPHY "TIGER CLAW." AND HE LEFT THE PIECE OF TORN SHIRT HERE TO CONVINCE US HE DIED OF WOUNDS!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



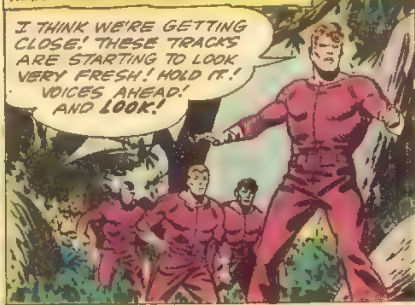
I GET IT! MANFREDO WANTED US TO FIND THIS SET-UP AND REPORT HIS "DEATH" TO THE AUTHORITIES! THEN HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO PULLED THOSE STUNTS TO RELEASE US!

CHECK! AN EX-CARNIVAL MAGICIAN WOULD HAVE LOADS OF TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE! COME ON, GANG--HE MAY STILL BE IN THE AREA!



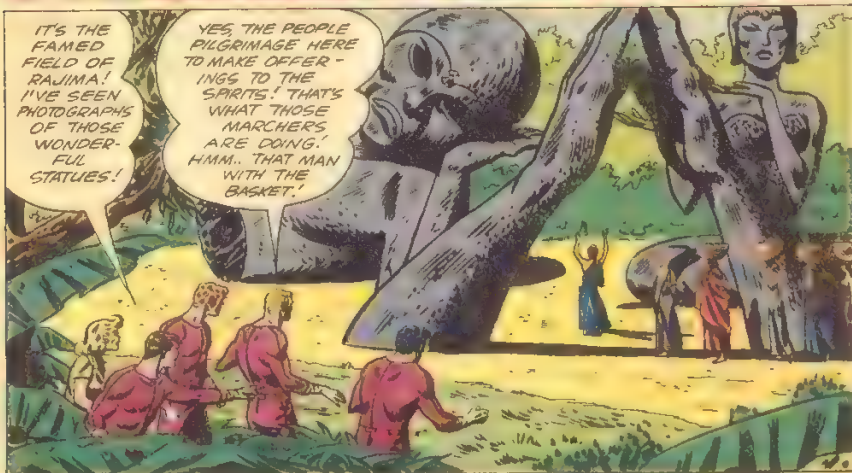
SWIFTLY, THE CHALLENGERS PICK UP MANFREDO'S JUNGLE TRAIL...

I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE! THESE TRACKS ARE STARTING TO LOOK VERY FRESH! HOLD IT! VOICES AHEAD! AND LOOK!



IT'S THE FAMED FIELD OF RAJIMA! I'VE SEEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THOSE WONDERFUL STATUES!

YES, THE PEOPLE PILGRIMAGE HERE TO MAKE OFFERINGS TO THE SPIRITS! THAT'S WHAT THOSE MARCHERS ARE DOING. HMM... THAT MAN WITH THE BASKET.



HE'S A PIDNY! IN THIS AREA, ONLY WOMEN CARRY BASKETS THAT WAY! IT'S MANFREDO TRYING TO COVER HIS FACE THAT WAY!

TOO BAD YOU FOUND ME OUT! TOO BAD FOR YOU!

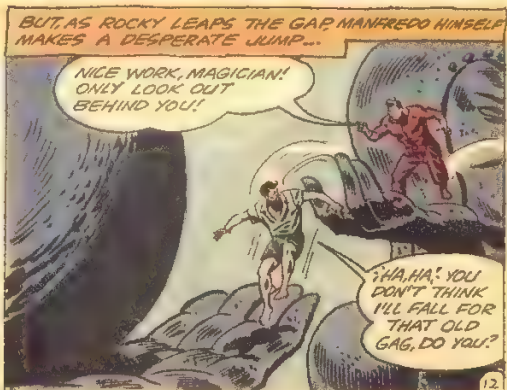
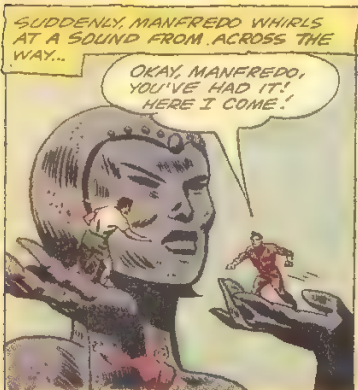
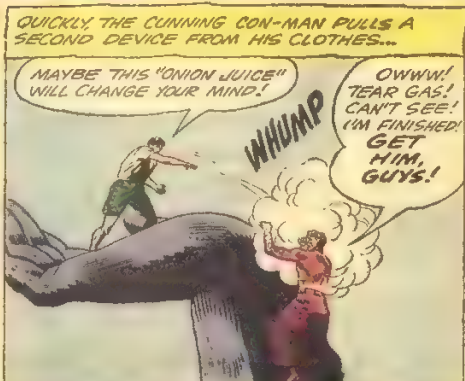
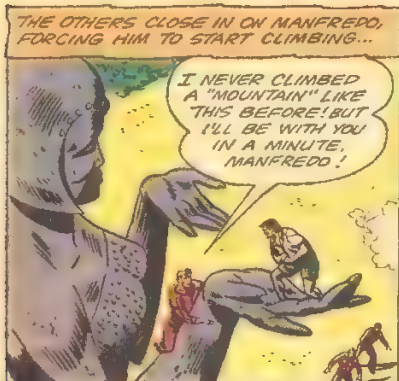
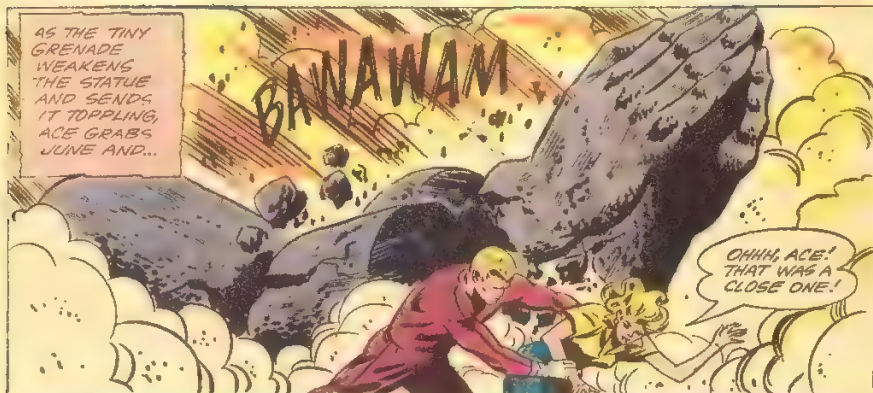


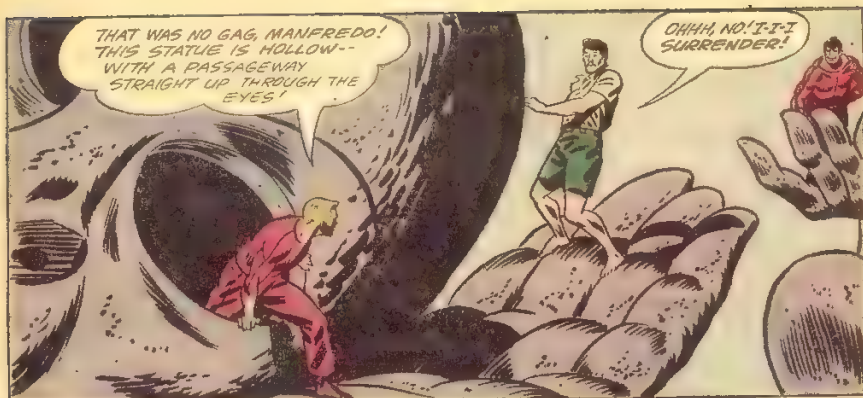
AS MANFREDO DASHES BENEATH ONE STATUE, HE PULLS SOMETHING FROM HIS CLOTHING, AND...

HERE'S A TASTE OF MY MAGIC! HA-HA-HA!

JUNE! LOOK OUT!







AND SHORTLY, AS THE CHALLENGERS
START HOMEWARD WITH THEIR
PRISONER...

YES WHEN I REALIZED
THAT YOU'D BEEN CAPTURED
BY THE BANJUKS, I HAD TO
ARRANGE YOUR RELEASE
SO YOU COULD FIND THE
"PROOF" OF MY DEATH!



YOU THOUGHT ONCE
YOU WERE REPORTED
DEAD, YOU'D BE FREE
TO COME BACK TO
CIVILIZATION!
INSTEAD, YOU'LL
HAVE TO FACE
A COURT!

YEAH! AND YOU
CAN TRY USING
YOUR CARNIVAL
MAGIC ON
PRISON BARS!



A FANTASTIC New Adventure...

BENEATH the EARTH!

ONCE AGAIN, *Cave Carson* AND HIS FRIENDS
BURROW BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST IN THE
MIGHTY MOLE, TO BATTLE BIZARRE MENACES in...
"THREE CAVERNS of DOOM!"

A 3-PART
THRILLER...

INSIDE EARTH

IN THE LATEST
ISSUE OF...

BY **THE** *Friend of the Mole*

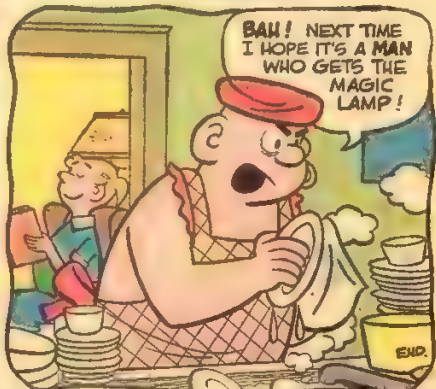
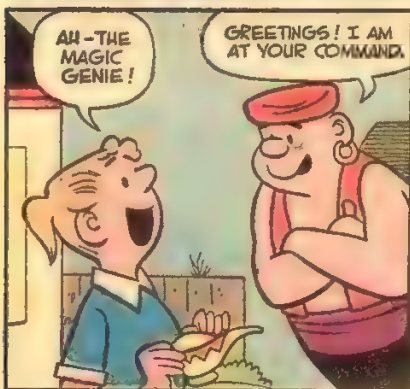
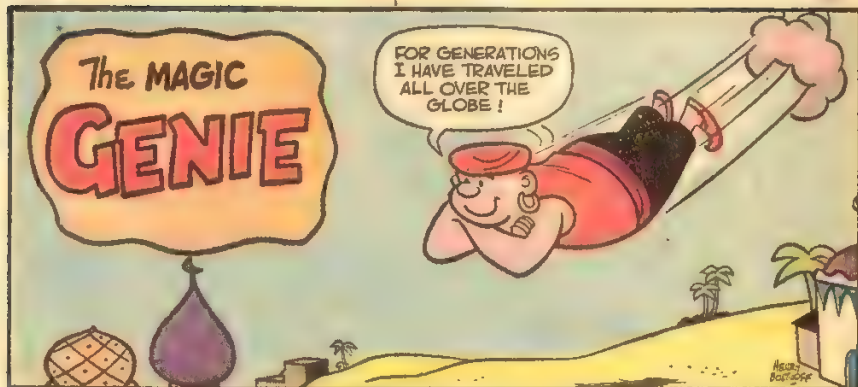


ON SALE
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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



Another *GIANT* BATMAN

**80
Pages!**

Featuring
BATMAN and ROBIN'S
MOST THRILLING Action Roles!

**"The JUNGLE
BATMAN!"**

**"BATMAN,
INDIAN CHIEF!"**

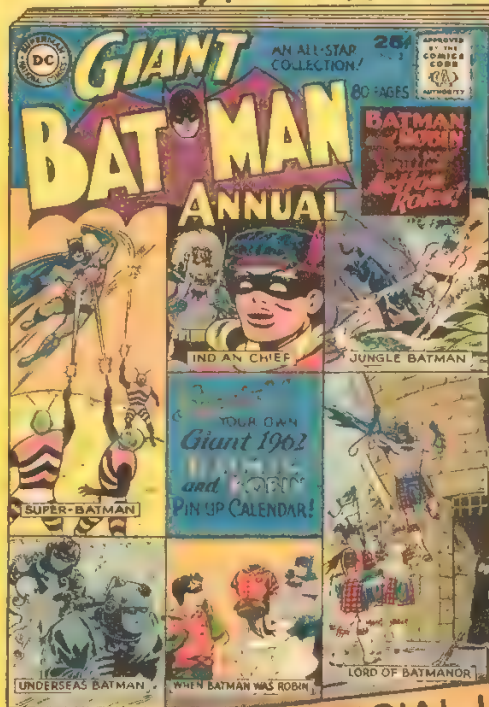
**"WHEN BATMAN
WAS ROBIN!"**

**"The UNDERSEAS
BATMAN!"**

**"BATMAN
MAGICIAN!"**

**"The LORD of
BATMANOR!"**

**"BATMAN, SUPERMAN
of PLANET X!"**



**PLUS A SPECIAL 1962
Giant BATMAN and ROBIN
PIN-UP CALENDAR!**

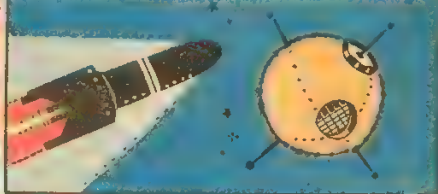
**ON SALE
EVERYWHERE**

LET SCIENCE SERVE *YOU!*

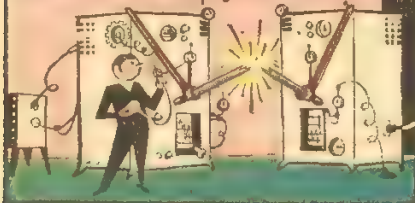
Science discovers information about fuels and thrust...



and Aviation Engineers build satellites and rockets...



Science discovers facts about stress and other physical forces...



and Architects and Construction Engineers build skyscrapers...



Science makes astounding chemical discoveries...



and Manufacturers make things out of fiberglass, nylon, plastics...



Science discovers the causes of illness and methods of preventing them...



and **You** must be the engineers and builders of your own good health!



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LATEST IN SCIENCE--GET A REGULAR PHYSICAL CHECK-UP AND IMMUNIZATION AGAINST POLIO, TETANUS AND OTHER DISEASES!

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MANY A MAN HAS SCHEMED TO CONTROL THE WORLD--IN VAIN! BUT A MAN WITH UNLIMITED POWERS, **MULTI-MAN**, MIGHT DREAM OF SUCH A CONQUEST--AND SUCCEED! ONLY THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN CAN DARE TO HALT HIM WHEN HE PROCLAIMS HIMSELF...

MULTI-MAN, MASTER OF EARTH!

DID YOU SEE THAT, ACE? **MULTI-MAN** USED THE ENERGY OF HIS BODY TO HIT THE MOON!

AND IF HE CAN FLY TO THE MOON, HE CAN THREATEN TO DO THE SAME TO EARTH TO MAKE IT SURRENDER!

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



IN ONE OF THE DEEP CHAMBERS OF A GIANT CAVE, WHICH SERVES AS THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, THREE TENSE FIGURES WAIT EXPECTANTLY...

THAT'S THE PLANE RETURNING WITH ACE AND ROCKY! LET'S HOPE THEY HAD BETTER LUCK FINDING MULTI-MAN THAN WE DID!

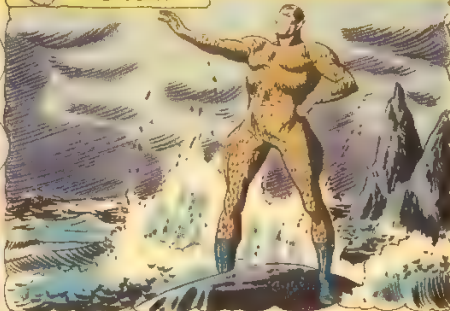
IT'S AMAZING THE WAY THAT GUY BROKE OUT OF JAIL! HE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE EVER SINCE THE DAY HE FOUND THAT VIAL OF LIQUID LIGHT!



"AND EACH TIME HE FACED DEATH, HE WAS ABLE TO CHANGE TO SAVE HIMSELF... LIKE THE TIME HE SWAM STRAIGHT INTO SOME DEPTH CHARGES AND EMERGED AS A WINGED-MAN!"

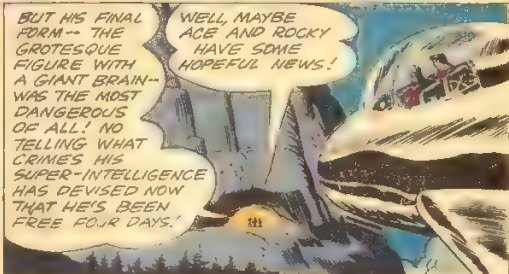


"FROM AN ORDINARY HUMAN, IT CHANGED HIM INTO BEINGS WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS! IN ONE FORM, HE COULD RULE THE SEA."



BUT HIS FINAL FORM-- THE GROTESQUE FIGURE WITH A GIANT BRAIN-- WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL! NO TELLING WHAT CRIMES HIS SUPER-INTELLIGENCE HAS DEVISED NOW THAT HE'S BEEN FREE FOUR DAYS.

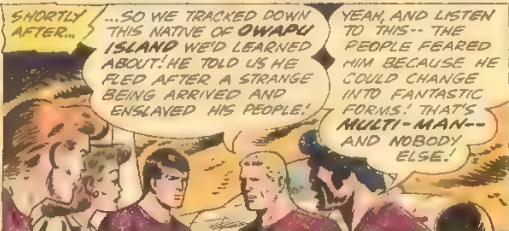
WELL, MAYBE ACE AND ROCKY HAVE SOME HOPEFUL NEWS!



SHORTLY AFTER...

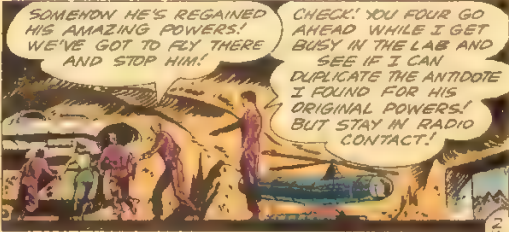
...SO WE TRACKED DOWN THIS NATIVE OF OWAPU ISLAND WE'D LEARNED ABOUT! HE TOLD US HE FLED AFTER A STRANGE BEING ARRIVED AND ENSLAVED HIS PEOPLE!

YEAH, AND LISTEN TO THIS-- THE PEOPLE FEARED HIM BECAUSE HE COULD CHANGE INTO FANTASTIC FORMS! THAT'S MULTI-MAN-- AND NOBODY ELSE!



SOMEONE HE'S REGAINED HIS AMAZING POWERS! WE'VE GOT TO FLY THERE AND STOP HIM!

CHECK! YOU FOUR GO AHEAD WHILE I GET BUSY IN THE LAB AND SEE IF I CAN DUPLICATE THE ANTIDOTE I FOUND FOR HIS ORIGINAL POWERS! BUT STAY IN RADIO CONTACT!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



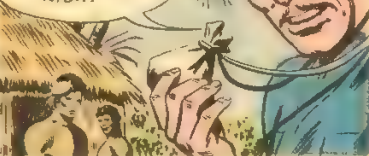
NOT LONG AFTER, ON OWAPLI ISLAND...

...AND ALL THE TIME I WAS IN JAIL, MY GREAT BRAIN WAS AT WORK TRYING TO ISOLATE THE SPECIFIC **ELEMENT OF CHANGE** IN THE ANCIENT FORMULA!

YOU MEAN THERE WAS ONE SUBSTANCE THAT MADE YOUR BODY CAPABLE OF ALTERING ITS FORM?

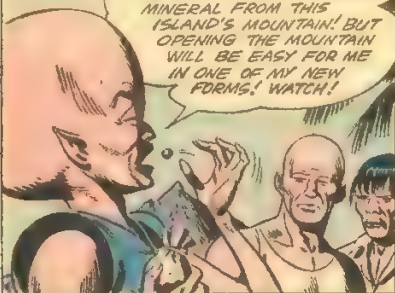


CORRECT! ONCE I HAD ISOLATED THAT, I WAS ABLE TO ADD INDIVIDUAL INGREDIENTS THAT COULD GIVE ME NEW AND GREATER FORMS! BUT MORE THAN THAT, I CAN NOW CHANGE MY BODY AT WILL! AND, WITH THESE POWERS, I WILL MAKE US ALL FANTASTICALLY RICH!

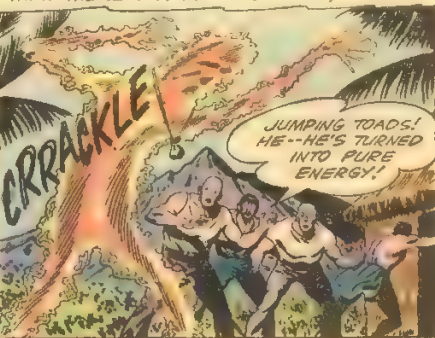


THEN, AS MULTI-MAN REMOVES A RED PELLET FROM A POUCH...

BEFORE MY PLAN CAN WORK, WE MUST OBTAIN A RARE MINERAL FROM THIS ISLAND'S MOUNTAIN! BUT OPENING THE MOUNTAIN WILL BE EASY FOR ME IN ONE OF MY NEW FORMS! WATCH!



NO SOONER DOES HE SWALLOW THE PELLET THAN THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH, AND...



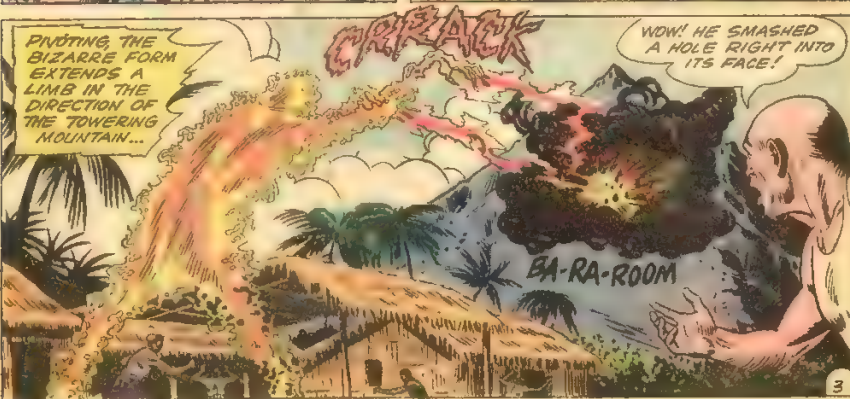
CRRACKLE!

JUMPING TOADS! HE--HE'S TURNED INTO PURE ENERGY!

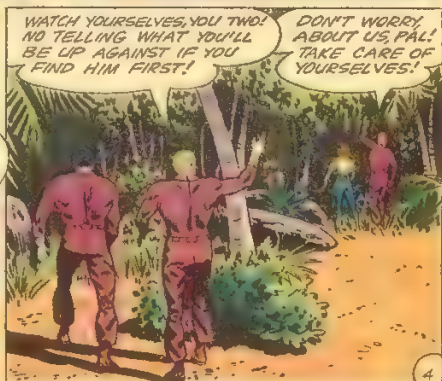
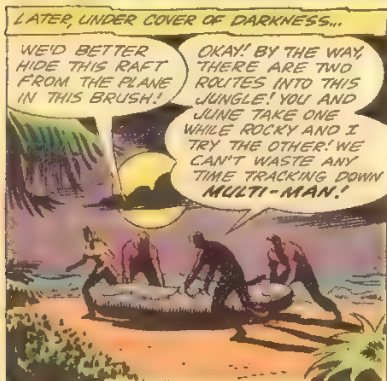
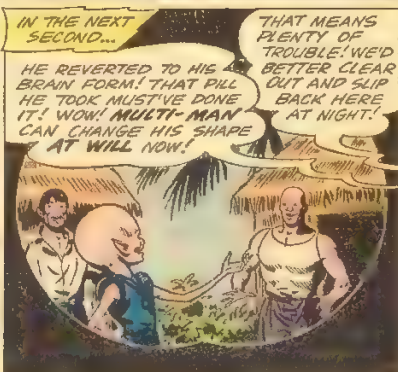
PINOTING, THE BIZARRE FORM EXTENDS A LIMB IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWERING MOUNTAIN...

CRRACK

WOW! HE SMASHED A HOLE RIGHT INTO ITS FACE!



BA-RA-ROOM



TRUDGING ALONG THE PATH, ACE AND ROCKY FINALLY REACH A CLEARING...

GET ALONG! START DIGGING INTO THAT MOUNTAIN AT ONCE! ANYONE REFUSES GETS A BULLET!

WE FOUND HIM, ROCKY, AND THREE OF HIS STOOGES! LET'S TAKE 'EM BY SURPRISE!



ABRUPTLY...

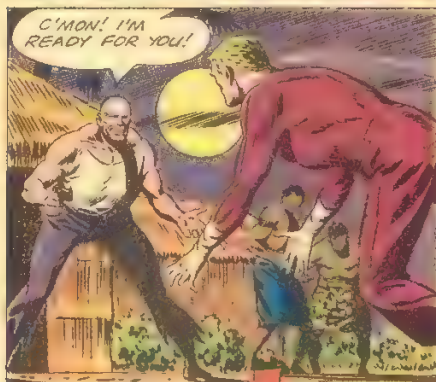
ODF!

UGH!

I GOT TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!



C'MON! I'M READY FOR YOU!

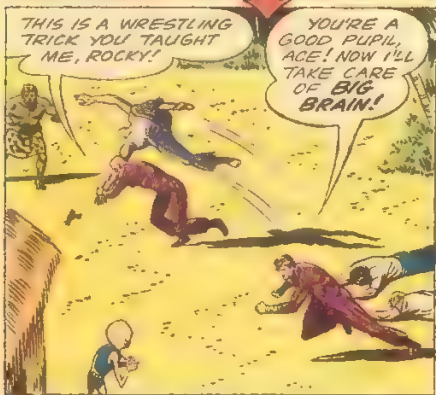


BUT, AS ROCKY THRASHES OUT TO SEIZE **MULTI-MAN**, THE CRIMINAL POPS A GREEN PILL INTO HIS MOUTH, AND...



THIS IS A WRESTLING TRICK YOU TAUGHT ME, ROCKY!

YOU'RE A GOOD PUPIL, ACE! NOW I'LL TAKE CARE OF **BIG BRAIN!**



SUFFERING SNAKES! HE CHANGED AGAIN! LOOK AT HIM NOW-- AND HE'S SHOOTING STRAIGHT UP!

DOWNING ANOTHER PELLET, **MULTI-MAN** LANDS AND RESUMES HIS ORIGINAL FORM.

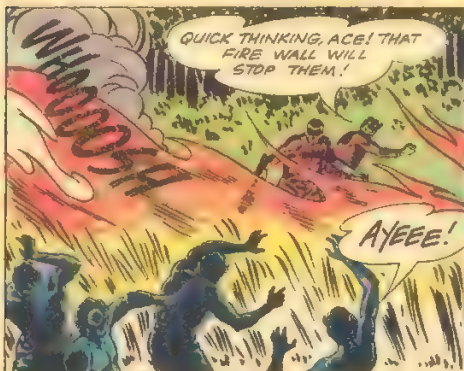
I COMMAND YOU--
DESTROY MY ENEMIES!

WE'RE HEAVILY
OUTNUMBERED,
ACE! WE'D
BETTER RETREAT!



ACE! GET A
MOVE ON! THEY'RE
GAINING ON US!

THIS OUGHT
TO SLOW
'EM DOWN!

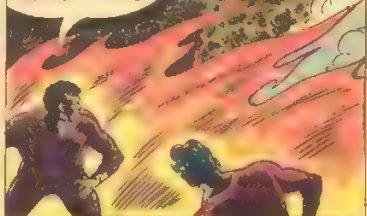


QUICK THINKING, ACE! THAT
FIRE WALL WILL
STOP THEM!

AIEEE!

BUT **MULTI-MAN** CONSUMES ANOTHER
OF HIS STRANGE COMPOUNDS, AND...

HE'S CHANGING--
TO SOME UGLY
KIND OF SPONGE
CREATURE! WHAT
GOOD IS THAT
GOING TO DO?



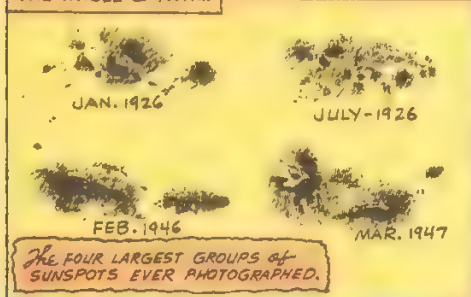
ACE'S QUESTION
IS ANSWERED A
MOMENT LATER...

HE'S DOUSING THE FLAMES--
TO LET THE NATIVES CONTINUE
THEIR ATTACK! MUCH AS I HATE
TO SAY IT, WE'RE WASHED UP,
ACE!

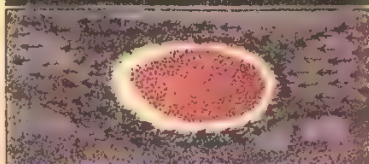


SOLAR SYSTEM SIZES!

THE **SMALLEST SUNSPOT** VISIBLE ON THE SUN IS AS BIG AS THE STATE OF TEXAS, BUT THE **LARGEST SUNSPOT** COULD EASILY ENCOMPASS THE WHOLE EARTH...

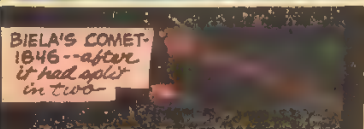


THE **RED SPOT** ON THE PLANET JUPITER IS SO ENORMOUS--7,000 MILES WIDE--AND 30,000 MILES LONG--THAT IT COULD ACCOMMODATE BOTH THE PLANET MERCURY AND THE EARTH'S MOON, PLACED SIDE BY SIDE...

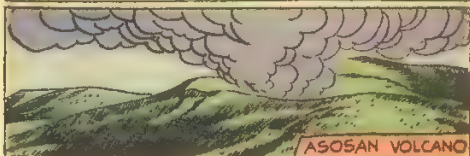
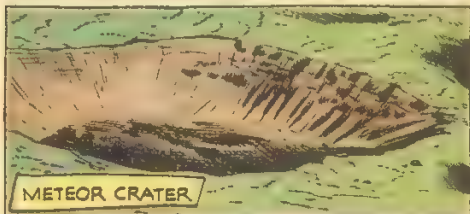


ABOVE--CLOSE-UP VIEW of RED SPOT of JUPITER as DRAWN by ASTRONOMER ANTONIADI

COMETS THAT FLASH THROUGH OUR SOLAR SYSTEM HAVE TAILS MILLIONS OF MILES LONG. THE NEBULOUS ENVELOPE AROUND THE HEAD of a COMET (THE **COMA**) MAY HAVE A DIAMETER UP TO 50,000 MILES, WHILE THE AVERAGE **NUCLEUS** INSIDE A COMET'S HEAD MAY BE ONLY 500 MILES WIDE. The **VOLUME** OF SOME LARGE COMETS IS GREATER THAN THE COMBINED VOLUME of EVERY MEMBER of the SOLAR SYSTEM...



THERE ARE ABOUT 30,000 CRATERS on the MOON, RANGING IN SIZE FROM 150 MILES TO A FEW HUNDRED FEET IN DIAMETER. THE **ASOSAN** VOLCANO IN JAPAN CONTAINS THE EARTH'S LARGEST CRATER--12 MILES ACROSS. THE FAMOUS **METEOR CRATER**, NEAR CANYON DIABLO, ARIZONA, IS ONLY 4,000 FEET in DIAMETER.



CIRCLE OF FEAR

THERE'S nothing different about the area, visibly. Pine, cedar and fir trees stud its rolling hills. Fish abound in its many streams. But it is the *invisible* that marks it as one of the strangest spots on earth, as, all of a sudden, the visitor is aware of something peculiar in the air. It is the phenomenon that has mystified viewers ever since frightened Shoshoni Indians fled on bolting horses from the scene almost 200 years ago. And when, later, miners converged on the frontier to gouge silver from the hills and pan gold nuggets from the riverbanks, it startled them so, they abandoned their gear and sluices and took off in sudden flight.

What caused everyone to blanch in fear and streak off to safety? Truly it was some fantastic feat of the unknown beyond their comprehension. For that matter, even at this date, nobody understands it, not even the experts and researchers who have journeyed from all quarters of the country to observe the startling behavior of "The Oregon Vortex," some 50 miles from Grant's Pass in the state of Oregon.

For "The Oregon Vortex" is an unexplainable freak of nature. No wind blows, no currents clash, but within the circle that measures some 170 feet in diameter is an astonishing phenomenon of gravity gone crazy. Step inside the magic arena and toss a ball straight up into the air. It won't fall straight down, but, uncannily, it will be drawn towards the center. Blow a puff of smoke. It won't spiral and dissipate, but be pulled forcefully towards the center.

Why do the pines within its weird confines lean to the center, while other trees in the vicinity loom, as they should, straight up? Why do the leaves, although full and green, hang limply from the limbs? Why do the wild flowers grow angularly instead of vertical? Why can low-flying birds, caught in the disturbing atmosphere, only gain their freedom after straining mightily with fiercely fluttering wings? What are the weird properties of the

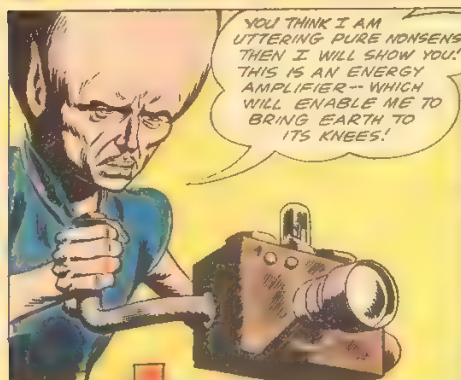
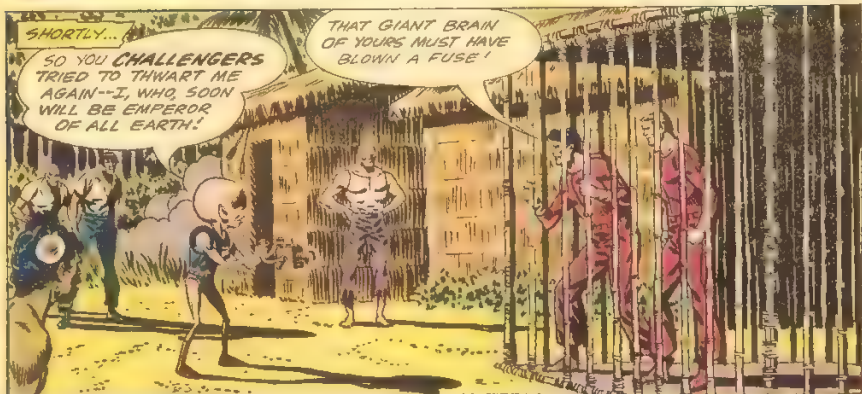
air within the circumference that can make a baseball bat stand on its end, a rifle to be balanced on its barrel, even a pencil to stand on its sharp point?

Many have tried to solve the riddle, but none has succeeded. One group hoisted a 50-pound steel ball to the top of a mast, to see if the unknown force was strong enough to influence it. Slowly, inexorably, the cable line played out, as the weighty sphere was tugged towards the center. To this day, visitors are still awed by the amazing sight of the massive ball flying from its mast.

There were some who maintained that witnesses to these weird occurrences were suffering from mass hysteria or hallucinations, due to some wild atmospheric conditions. But experts who reached the scene, soon after, quickly voided that conclusion. The masterminds from a national scientific bureau had only to step within the borders of the magic circle before they felt themselves being drawn against their will towards the center.

But on one thing, all technicians agree—that the force consists of some sort of electromagnetic quality, but what produces it, and how it originated continues to baffle them. Photographers have tried to find a clue in pictures they've taken, without result. Physicists have made studies of the air to ascertain if there is any marked degree of density between the core of the zone and the perimeter, but their experiments have proved to be futile. According to their instruments, they could only learn that the light inside is slightly brighter, and diminishes in intensity as it reaches the rim.

Perhaps the answer will be found some day via three similar but simpler cases. Another vortex, far less forceful than its Oregon counterpart, exists at Camp Burch in Colorado. A second, minor specimen is located less than 100 miles from its dynamic big brother, in the mountainous regions, and a third can be found in the perches of the Santa Rosa Mountains of northern Nevada.



AND A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...



Wow! HE HIT THE MOON RIGHT ON THE KISSER!

THEN, AS MULTI-MAN RETURNS TO HIS ORIGINAL FORM...

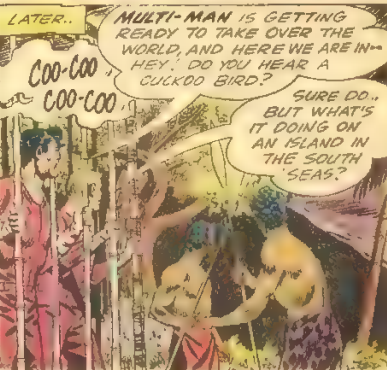
WHAT I HAVE JUST DONE TO THE MOON, I CAN ALSO DO TO EARTH! IN MY ANTI-GRAVITY FORM, I CAN ZOOM TO THE MOON, LEAVING MY CREW TO DELIVER AN ULTIMATUM TO EARTH'S LEADERS -- SURRENDER OR DIE!



ONLY ONE PROBLEM REMAINS! WHEN I CHANGE FROM MY NATURAL FORM, I LOSE THIS SUPER-BRAIN! BUT THE MINERAL IN THE MOUNTAIN WILL ENABLE ME TO COMBINE MY THREE -- GREATEST POWERS -- ANTI-GRAVITY, ENERGY AND SUPER-INTELLIGENCE! COME -- LET US HURRY!



LATER...



Coo-coo
Coo-coo

MULTI-MAN IS GETTING READY TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, AND HERE WE ARE -- HEY! DO YOU HEAR A CUCKOO BIRD?

SURE DO.. BUT WHAT'S IT DOING ON AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH SEAS?

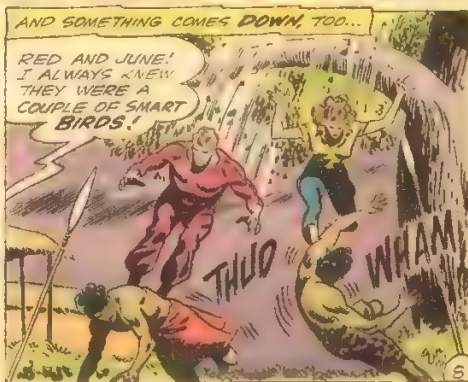
OUR GUARDS CAN'T FIGURE IT EITHER! SOMETHING'S UP.



Coo-coo
Coo-coo

AND SOMETHING COMES DOWN, TOO...

RED AND JUNE! I ALWAYS KNEW THEY WERE A COUPLE OF SMART BIRDS!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



WITH THE GUARDS OUT OF THE WAY, ROCKY AND ACE ARE FREED, AND QUICKLY THEY EXPLAIN **MULTI-MAN'S** P.O.T...

BY DAWN THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION...

THEN WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE! WE'VE GOT TO ATTACK NOW! LET'S GO--!

MULTI-MAN HAS DONE IT! HE SWALLOWED THE MINERAL AND COMBINED HIS THREE FORMS!

...SO WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT MOUNTAIN AND NAB HIM!

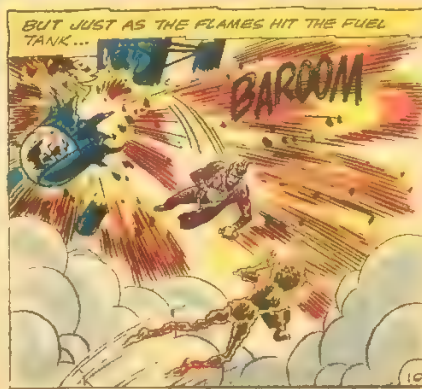
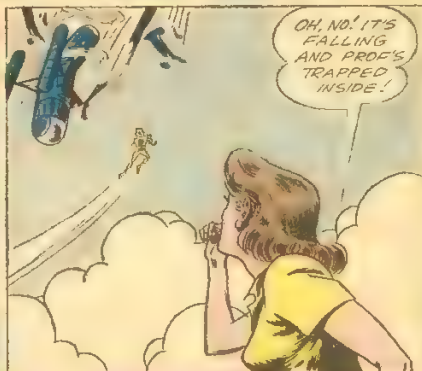
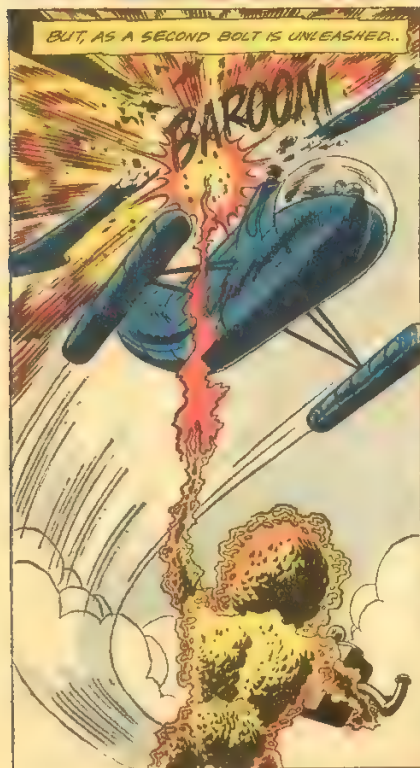
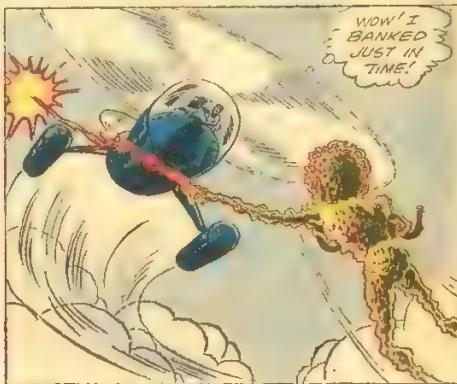


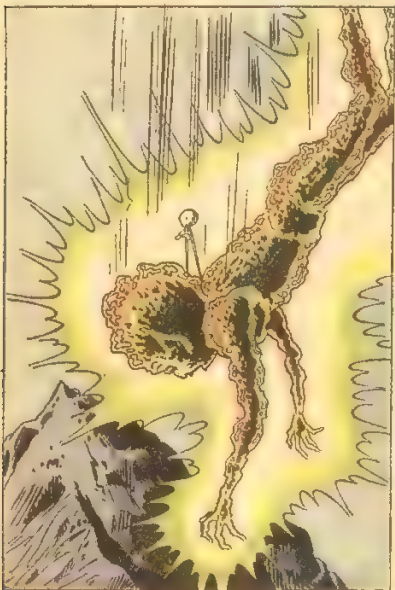
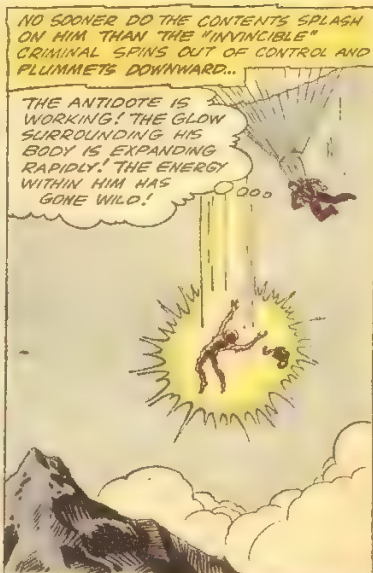
'HA, HA,' DID YOU THINK YOU COULD CAPTURE ME WHEN I CAN DEFY GRAVITY? AND HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD MY MEN, ONCE I BEGIN MY BOMBARDMENT OF EARTH?

FASTER AND FASTER THE FANTASTIC FELON RISES INTO THE AIR, WHEN...



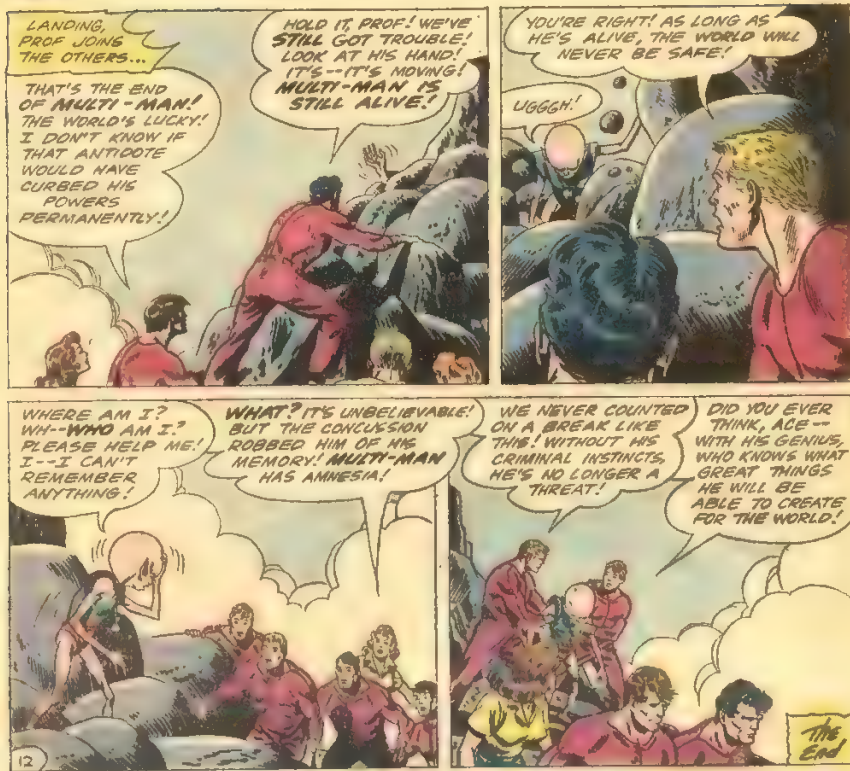
GOOD GRIEF! OUR COPTER! PROF MUST BE COMING TO JOIN US! AND HE'S NOT AWARE OF **MULTI-MAN'S** NEW POWERS!







CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, published bi-monthly at Sparta, Illinois for October 1st, 1961.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, National Periodical Publications, Inc.; Editor, Jack Schiff; Managing editor, None; Business manager, J. S. Liebowitz, all at 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: 235,000.

J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of September, 1961.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public

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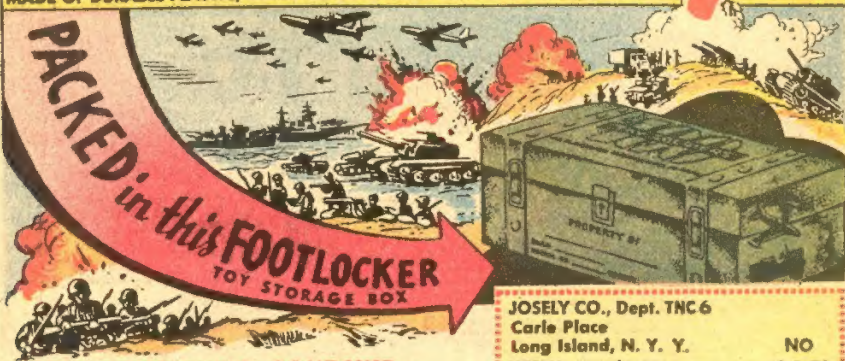
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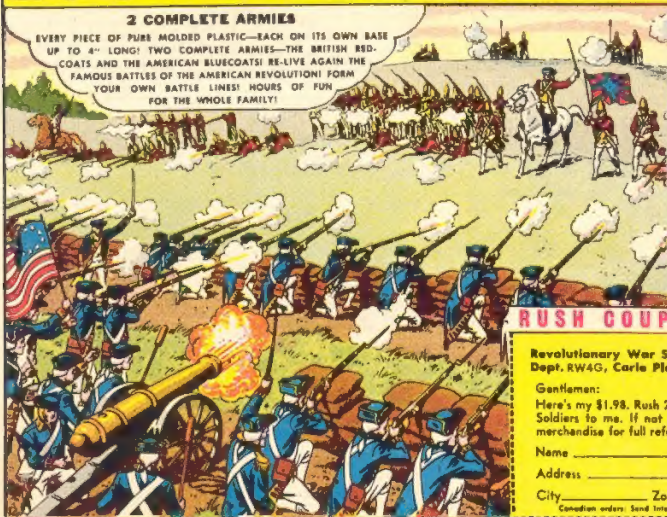
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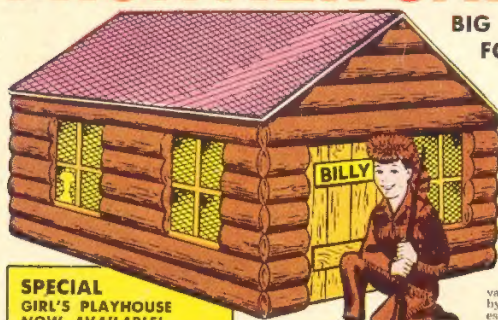
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Large 2"x8" Name Plate fits on door. House can be personalized with child's name.

This huge, western-style cabin is a child's dream come true. Size Approx. 3 ft. high - 9 ft. square, 23 cubic ft. inside. Endless hours of play fun. Big enough for 2-3 kids to "live" in this cabin of their very own. Constructed of specially treated, safe... flameproof and waterproof DuPont Polyethylene. Use year 'round, indoors or outdoors. No tools needed, nothing to assemble. Sets up in a jiffy, folds compactly for easy storage. Walls and door are realistically imprinted in authentic brown split-log design. Peaked roof is in contrasting color. In a youngster's imagination it quickly becomes a RANCH HOUSE - FARMHOUSE - PLAYHOUSE or a LIFE-SIZE DOLL HOUSE for GIRLS. A Bunkhouse - Jailhouse - Sheriff's Office - Secret Clubhouse for Boys. This King-size cabin is our greatest bargain in years. A comparable \$3.98 value now only \$1.00. This sale price is made possible by our buying directly from factory. We are the largest Mfrs. and Distrib. of playhouses in the U.S. Over 250,000 satisfied customers. They make wonderful gifts. Buy several. Add 25¢ each house, postage and handling charges. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s. **Special Offer:** 5 for \$4.00. **GUARANTEE:** Try without risk or obligation for ten days. Let the kids play in and enjoy it. If they are not delighted return for immediate refund.

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- ☐ Frontier Cabin @ \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
- ☐ Girl's Playhouse @ \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
- ☐ Frontier Cabin or Giant Playhouse or Any Combination - 5 for only \$4.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling

I enclose ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O.

Sorry, No C.O.D.'s

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